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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant : Rogerio Jun MIZUNO

Group Art Unit : 2877

Appl. No. : 10/784,220

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Filed : February 24, 2004

For : CONFOCAL PROBE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,
Applicant calls to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-505434, which was published on February 19, 2002, together with patent family members U.S. Patent No. 6,341,036 to TEARNEY et al., which issued on January 22, 2002 and International Patent Application Publication No. WO 99/44089, which was published on September 2, 1999. Applicant notes that WO 99/44089 is discussed on page 2 of the specification; and

U.S. Patent No. 5,323,009 to HARRIS et al., which issued on June 21, 1994.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patent are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached and all of the documents have been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicant with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicant also brings to the Examiner's attention the following co-pending, commonly assigned patent applications:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/699,699 to MIZUNO, entitled "Confocal Probe and Endoscope Device" which was filed on November 4, 2003;


U.S. Patent Application No. 10/759,208 to MIZUNO, entitled "Endoscope Probe System" which was filed on January 20, 2004; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/784,308 to MIZUNO, entitled "Confocal Probe" which was filed on February 24, 2004.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-noted applications are attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrappers of these patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

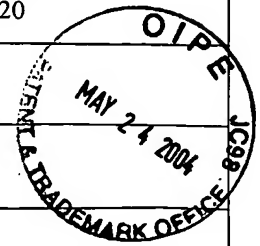
Respectfully submitted,
Rogerio Jun MIZUNO


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

April 20, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Application No.
10/784,220

Group
2877

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DATE CONSIDERED

05/24/2004